

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 MCE-00 IO-13 DLOS-09
EUR-12 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 /099 W
-----085264 140047Z /62

O 132256Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6572
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

S E C R E T RIO DE JANEIRO SECTION 1 OF 2 3604

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PCAT, MX, VE
SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

1. SUMMARY. MEXICO HAS THREE OBJECTIVES FOR AUGUST 21 MEETING: 1) SUPPORT

FOR PROPOSALS MEXICO WILL MAKE AT AUGUST 28 PREPCON IN GENEVA ON
PROHIMI-

TION OF USE AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN WEAPONS; 2) ESTABLISHMENT OF ALATIN

AMERICAN WORKINGGROUP TO DRAFT ARMS TRANSFER (AND PERHAPS USE) RESTRIC-

TIONS FOR THE REGION, TO BE SUBMITTED TO A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN

1979; AND 3) AGREEMENT TO CALL UPON SUPPLIERS TO HONOR REGIONAL RECIP-

AGREEMENTS, AND PERHAPS TO URGE THEM TO INSTITUTE A MORATORIUM ON/CER-

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TRANSFERS WHILE AGREEMENT BEING NEGOTIATED. FORMAL NOTES BEING SENT BY
MEXICO TO MAJOR SUPPLIER GOVERNMENTS ALERTING THEM TO AUGUST 21 MEETING,
MEXICANS SEE CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN MEETING AS ADVANTAGEOUS AND ARE

PREPARED

GO AHEAD WITHOUT SOUTHERN CONE. BUT THEY THREATEN TO ABANDON WHOLE EFFORT

IF AYACUCHO COUNTRIES TRY TO DEVELOP SEPARATE RESTRAINT AGREEMENT.

END SUMMARY

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (CLAPP AND JONES) MET AUGUST 12-13 IN RIO WITH SERGIO GONZALEZ GALVEZ, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, MEXICAN FONOFF, WHO IS IN RIO TO ATTEND INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMM-

SSION MEETING AND TO MAKE PERSONAL EFFORT TO PERSUADE GOB TO PARTICIPATE IN

MEETING OF 18 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT IN MEXICO CITY AUGUST 21. GONZALEZ HAD DINNER AUGUST 11 WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL AND WILL SEE GENERAL FIGUERDO LATER.

BRAZILIAN HAVE NOT ANSWERED MEXICAN INVITATION BUT GONZALEZ DOES NOT EXPECT THEM, OR ARGENTINA OR URUGUAY, TO ATTEND. HE SAID BOLIVIA, ALTHOUGH IT HAS ACCEPTED, IS BEING PRESSURED BY BRAZIL AND MAY DROP OUT. CHILE WAS ONLY COUNTRY NOT INVITED, BUT GONZALEZ SAYS CHILEAN. U.N. REP TOLD HIM CHILE ANXIOUS TO PARTICIPATE IN RESTRAINT EFFORT AND SOME FORMULA MAY BE WORKED OUT SO IT CAN (WITHOUT BEING INVITED BY MEXICO). GONZALEZ BELIEVES HIS EFFORTS HAVE AT LEAST RAISED SOUTHERN CONE'S CONSCIOUSNESS OF ISSUE AND IF RESTRAINT PROSPERS CONE WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO COME INTO SECRET

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LINE WITH REST OF HEMISPHERE. THIS IS ONE REASON HE DESCRIBED GENEVA RESOLUTIONS AS ESSENTIAL TO HIS EFFORT, BECAUSE BRAZIL IN PARTICULAR HAS ARGUED THAT REGIONAL RESTRAINT IS UNACCEPTABLE WITHOUT GLOBAL RESTRAINT.

3. GONZALEZ SAID AGENDA FOR AUGUST 21 HAD THREE MAIN POINTS. FIRST, MEXICO WILL TABLE, AND SEEK COMMITMENTS THAT THOSE ATTENDING WILL SUPPORT, PROPOSALS THAT IT WILL INTRODUCE AT AUGUST 28 MEETING IN GENEVA OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR U.N. CONFERENCE ON PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. MEXICO WILL CONTINUE ITS LONG-STANDING EFFORT TO PROHIBIT USE OF WEAPONS SUCH AS NAPALM, FRAGMENTATION BOMBS, AND HIGH-VELOCITY BULLETS, BUT IT WILL ALSO SEEK TO BROADEN GENEVA AGENDA TO PROHIBIT TRANSFER, ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, OF THOSE WEAPONS AND ALSO OF MORE WIDELY USED ARMS, HE GAVE NO EXAMPLES OF WEAPONS HE HAS IN MIND, BUT IS APPARENTLY THINKING OF SOPHISTICATED AND ADVANCED RATHER THAN INHUMANE WEAPONS. WE REVIEWED FOR HIM US POSITION ON GENEVA MEETING, WITH WHICH HE WAS ALREADY FAMILIAR, INCLUDING IMPOSSIBILITY OF OUR AGREEING TO BAN USE OR PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS IN OUR STANDARD INVENTORY. WE NOTED OUT SUPPORT FOR TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS, STARTING FROM PRESIDENT'S MAY 1977 DECISION, BUT POINTED OUT THAT NATO, NZUS, AND JAPAN WERE

EXCEPTED AND US COULD NOT SUPPORT RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFERS TO ITS CLOSEST ALLIES. THAT WAS WHY REGIONAL APPROACH HAD BEEN CHOSEN IN US-SOVIET TALKS (ON WHICH WE BRIEFED HIM) AND WHY GONZALEZ' OWN REGIONAL PLANS SEEMED TO US MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE THAN DID THE U.S.N. APPROACH. GONZALEZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD BUT DID NOT AGREE. HE QUESTIONED WHY, FOR EXAMPLE, US HAD TO OPPOSE BAN ON M-16 TRANSFERS TO NATO SINCE NATO COUNTRIES PRODUCED SIMILAR RIFLES AND AMMUNITION THEMSELVES.

4. SECOND MAJOR ITEM ON MEXICO CITY AGENDA IS AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A WORKING-LEVEL COMMITTEE OF ALL INTERESTED LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO DRAFT REGIONAL SELF-RESTRAINT PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE 1979 MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MENTIONED IN THE MEXICAN OASGA RESOLUTION. (WE ARE HANDCARRYING
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TO DEPARTMENT A COPY OF PROPOSAL GONZALEZ WILL PUT BEFORE MEETING, WHICH IS SIMILAR TO THE JULY 1 RESOLUTION.) ONCE MINISTERS AGREED ON PROPOSALS, THEY WOULD INVITE LEADING SUPPLIERS OF ARMS TO LATIN AMERICA TO A CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE RESTRAINTS.

5. THIRD ITEM IS AN APPEAL TO SUPPLIERS TO HONOR RESTRAINTS RECIPIENTS MAY AGREE UPON. GONZALEZ WILL PROPOSE NAMING THE LEADING SUPPLIERS IN THIS PUBLIC APPEAL, AND HE IS THINKING OF ALSO PROPOSING THAT THE MEXICO CITY MEETING URGE SUPPLIERS TO INSTITUTE A MORATORIUM ON TRANSFERS OF ALL OR AT LEAST MAJOR WEAPONS TO LATIN AMERICA WHILE RECIPIENT AGREEMENT IS BEING HAMMERED OUT, TO GIVE FAIR WARNING OF THESE POSSIBILITIES, MEXICO HAS INSTRUCTED ITS EMBASSIES IN EVERY MAJOR SUPPLIER CAPITAL, INCLUDING WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, BONN, LONDON, PARIS, ROME, STOCKHOLM, AND EVEN CANBERRA (BUT NOT TEL AVIV), TO DELIVER FORMAL NOTES TO HOST GOVERNMENTS ADVISING THEM OF AUGUST 21 MEETING AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. NOTES WILL BE DELIVERED DURING WEEK OF AUGUST 14.

6. GONZALEZ SAID HE WAS INTERESTED IN AVOIDING TLATELOCO SITUATION WHERE FULL ENTRY INTO FORCE AMONG LATINS HAD BEEN DELAYED BY DILATORY GREAT POWER RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOLS. THEREFORE SUPPLIER SUPPORT, WHETHER IN FORM OF UNDERSTANDING, TREATY, OR SIMPLE RESOLUTION, WOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF THE AGREEMENT THAT WOULD APPLY AMONG LATINS. BUT HAND-IN-HAND PROGRESS ON SUPPLIER AND RECIPIENT FRONTS IS, HE SAID, ESSENTIAL.

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HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 /099 W
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O 132256Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6573
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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7. CUBAN PARTICIPATION. GONZALEZ WAS PLEASED BY CUBAN DECISION TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE OF AMBASSADORIAL RANK (WHOSE NAME HE SAID HE DID NOT RECALL) TO AUGUST 21 MEETING, AND HE SAW ONLY PLUSES FROM CUBAN PARTICIPATION. HE DID NOT THINK THEY HAD POTENTIAL ABILITY OR INTEREST TO DIVIDE OR DISRUPT MEETING OR THAT THEIR INVOLVEMENT WOULD MAKE RESTRAINT ANY MORE DIFFUCLT THAN WOULD INVOLVEMENT OF ANY OTHER WELL-ARMED COUNTRY. HE THOUGH CUBAN DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN RESTRAINT DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN SIGNALLED IN CASTRO SPEECH TO HAVANA YOUTH FESTIVAL, AND THAT PRIMARY MOTIVATION WAS CUBAN DESIRE NOT TO BE ISOLATED AGAIN, AS IT IS ON TLATELOLCO.

8. GONZALEZ SAID HE HAD HAD NO FURTHER CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS ON ARMS RESTRAINT SINCE THE VISIT TO MEXICO OF A SOVIET U.N. MISSION OFFICIAL IN JULY (REPORTED EARLIER BY EMBASY MEXICO).

9. RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA. WE TOLD GONZALEZ WE HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND FONMIN CONSALVI AND THAT THEY HAD STATED THEIR INTENT TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN MEXICO MEETING AND COOPERATE TO MAXIMUM WITH HIS INITIATIVE. (WE GAVE HIM NO OTHER DETAILS OF OUR CONVERSATION, PARTICULARLY GOV REACTION TO INCLUSION OF CUBA.

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WE DID NOT RPT NOT TELL HIM OF SOVIET PROPOSAL ON CAT IV VENUE.) HOWEVER, VENEZUELANS SEEMED SOMEWHAT PERPLEXED AS TO HOW TO PROCEED BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE AGENDA OR LIST OF INVITEES. GONZALEZ SAID HE HAD MET AT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT WITH NUMBER THREE MAN IN VENEZUELAN FONOFF, GERMAN NAVA CARRILLO, ON AUGUST 9 ON HIS WAY TO RIO, AND HAD GIVEN HIM COPY OF PROPOSALS MEXICO WILL MAKE. WE NOTED CONSALVI HAD TOLD US NAVA WAS IN CURACAO AND

THEREFORE PERHAPS HE HAD NOT HAD TIME TO BRIEF HIS SUPERIORS BEFORE LEAVING. GONZALEZ SAID THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME THIS KIND OF THING HAD HAPPENED WITH VENEZUELAN. HE SAID BOTH VENEZUELAN AND PERUVIANS HAD TOLD HIM JUNE 22 AYACUCHO DECLARATION WAS THE MAXIMUM AYACUCHO COUNTRIES COULD ACHIEVE, AND THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS TO HOLD ANY FURTHER MEETINGS OR DEVELOP SPECIFIC RESTRAINT PROPOSALS. IT WAS ON THE BASIS OF THAT INFORMATION THAT MEXICO HAD STARTED ITS INITIATIVE. WE SAID WE SAW SOME POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES TO FORWARD MOVEMENT ON BOTH THE MEXICAN AND THE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVES, PROVIDED THERE WAS CLOSE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. GONZALEZ DISAGREED STRONGLY. HE SAID THAT IF THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES DEVELOPED THEIR OWN SEPARATE UNDERSTANDING OR AGREEMENT ON RESTRAINT, MEXICO WOULD DROP ITS EFFORT "AND LEAVE IT FOR HISTORY TO JUDGE." HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO FURTHER MEETINGS OF THE AYACUCHO GROUP, FOR DISCUSSION OF RESTRAINT OR TO COORDINATE POSITIONS FOR THE AUGUST 21 MEETING, BUT TO HAVE TWO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH (INEVITABLY) DIFFERENT LEVELS AND TYPES OF RESTRAINT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.

10. FOR CARACAS. WE UNDERSTAND CHARGE PLANNING SEE CONSALVI EARLY AUGUST 14, JUST BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR SANTO DOMINGO, OR FAILING THAT WILL SEE VICE MINISTER GOMEZ. WE SUGGEST FOR CHARGE'S CONSIDERATION THAT HE TELL VENEZUELAN GONZALEZ TOLD US HE GAVE COPY OF MAIN SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENT TO NAVA AND TOLD HIM CUBA WAS AMONG INVITEES. MEXICO REMAINS INTERESTED IN FULLEST INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS AND COOPERATION WITH VENEZUELA.
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GONZALEZ BELIEVES CUBAN PARTICIPATION OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVERT THEM TO CAUSE OF ARMS RESTRAINT AND ASSURED US CUBA WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO DIVIDE LATIN AMERICANS FROM EACH OTHER. IN LIGHT OF THIS, A VISIT TO MEXICO BY A SENIOR VENEZUELAN OFFICIAL WELL IN ADVANCE OF AUGUST 21 (GONZALEZ WILL BE BACK ON AUGUST 15) SEEMS TO US TO BE STRONGLY ADVISED IN INTEREST OF REACHING THE TWO NATION'S COMMON GOAL.

11. CLAPP AND JONES DEPARTING RIO 2230 AUGUST 13 ARRIVING WASHINGTON 1130 AUGUST 14. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLY WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ' REQUEST THAT WE RETURN TO CARACAS TO BRIEF FONMIN BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AS THERE ARE NO FLIGHTS FROM RIO TO CARACAS ON SUNDAYS. WE OFFERED MEET WITH CONSALVI IN SANTO DOMINGO OR WITH NAVA IN CARACAS, BUT FONOFF WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC AND WE BELIEVE NEXT LINE OF APPROACH TO MEXICO AND VENEZUELA CAN BEST BE WORKED OUT IN WASHINGTON.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1753071
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATIN AMERICAN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS
TAGS: PCAT, PORG, MX, VE
To: CARACAS STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b4ff0d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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